captioned "Five lakhs pregnancy deaths every year" which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 27th January, 1987;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government with the help of State Governments have ever assessed the number of deaths that occurred every year due to pregnancy;

(d) if not, whether Government proposed to maintain the records of such incidents; and

(e) what other steps Government propose to take to provide guidance to the mothers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the news item. 5 lakh pregnancy deaths referred in it, is an estimate for the entire world. The Government intend to reduce the maternal mortality and with that objective, expansion of existing health infrastructure training of manpower, provision of antenatal, natal and postnatal care, adoption of risk approach, health education prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia, immunisation with Tetanus Toxoid. Expansion of MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) facilities and supplementary nutrition are being under taken.

(c) and (d) A precise estimate of number of deaths due to pregnancy in the country is not available. However, according to a sample survey of causes of death (rural) by Registrar General of India, the maternal deaths as percentages of all female deaths are 2.4, 2.7 and 2.2 in 1982, 1983 and 1984 respectively. In the urban areas the estimated percentages are 2.8,2.2 and 2.2 in 1981, 1982 and 1983 respectively State-wise estimates are not available.

(e) Health and nutrition education of the mother will be intensified through all channels of communication.

Shipping Policy

967. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any shipping policy to help the shipping industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and financial institutions/banks have set up a new company called Shipping Credit & Investment Corporation of India (SCICI) which would provide financial assistance to the shipping companies in the private sector on the basis of the viability of their proposals. In the case of sick companies the matter would be considered on a case to case basis and suitable rehabilitation package would be evolved by the SCICI if the company was found to be potentially viable. Financial assistance would be provided broadly on the rates hitherto being charged by the Shipping Development Fund Committee.

Commercial Pilots

968. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual requirement of commercial pilots to man the planes of various airlines in the country;

(b) what are the names of the institutes which train pilots alongwith the number of persons trained annually; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the growing needs of pilots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.